

The Farmington Times

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THOS. H. STAM, President.
E. E. SWINK, Vice-President.

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A TENSE FORTNIGHT

The past two weeks have certainly been pregnant with absorbing moments, crowding one upon the other. The final decision of the President, notwithstanding the failure of Congress to pass the bill giving him authority to maintain an attitude of armed neutrality, that laws already on the statute books gave him such authority without the action of Congress, and his order for the defensive arming of all American commercial ships, created a tense feeling that we must inevitably be drawn into the European war. While thrilling under this nearness to armed hostilities, a renewal of the nationwide strike question of the railroad brotherhoods ominously thrust itself into the situation, already extremely critical, and a general strike had been ordered to begin Saturday evening, March 17th. It threatened to tie up the transportation of the whole country, not only to the great inconvenience and loss of the general public, but to the embarrassment of the Government in its preparedness work to meet impending war emergencies; and while the conferences between the representatives of the brotherhoods and the railroads were still in progress with no prospects of agreement, and the President had issued an appeal to their patriotism to desist in their differences in the face of the nation's dire situation, the cable flashed the news that three American ships had just been torpedoed and sunk by German submarines, and the war cloud lowered more menacingly about us.

Happily the two first menacing troubles—the embarrassment of the Government in carrying on its work of preparedness, and the strike, which even at the most propitious time in the nation's peaceful pursuits, would have worked a calamity far-reaching and inflicted untold inconvenience and great suffering on an innocent public—have been averted. The railroad managers, yielding to the President's appeal, granted the demands of the employees for an eight-hour day basis. This was hardly announced, to the great relief of the country, when the Supreme Court, on last Monday, handed down its decision in the case contesting the eight-hour law passed by Congress to avert the strike movement of the brotherhoods last fall, thus possibly guaranteeing the country in the future against such strike troubles.

But the other menace continues to threaten us with more intensity and with increased aggravation. The torpedoing of the three American ships, on their homeward voyage—a guarantee that they carried no contraband of war articles—with their nationality clearly and conspicuously defined, has thrilled the whole country with patriotic indignation and rendered the evasion of war on the part of the United States practically impossible. The torpedoing and sinking of these vessels was a direct act of war on the part of Germany. It forces upon us the imperative conviction that we are even now in a state of war, whether we like it or not. The President, if he had the authority, would be justified in declaring a state of war between the United States and Germany after this open hostile act, but he has not that authority. Only Congress may declare war, and the President has called for the immediate assembling of that body on April 2d, instead of waiting until the 16th of April, the date set for the convening of the extra session.

Capital punishment has been abolished in Missouri. Heretofore the law has left it with the trial jury to assess the punishment on conviction at hanging or life imprisonment in the penitentiary.

The United States having turned first the right and then the left cheek to Germany and received the scriptural slap, it looks as if it were about time to face front and impart a stiff punch, and not turn another part of her anatomy to the enemy for a kick.

The people of the State will have another opportunity at the general election in 1918 of voting on a prohibition amendment to the Constitution. The manufacturers of intoxicating drinks would better be putting their houses in order and getting ready for a change in business. The prohibition sentiment among the people is growing and is sure to come sooner or later.

GOVERNOR GARDNER

The people of Missouri have not been disappointed in Governor Gardner. He promised them a business administration, and is fulfilling that promise. He took the public into his confidence as to what he purposed and expected to accomplish. First and foremost he would place the State's affairs on a sound business and financial basis. To this end he proposed certain revenue measures that would furnish the State sufficient revenue to meet all its needs. His plans were not without opposition, even among some of his own party in the Legislature, but he possessed the courage, energy and confidence to push his policy, and they were brought around to his way.

The Legislature has adjourned, and Governor Gardner may look with satisfaction upon the result. All of his revenue measures, with one exception, have been enacted into laws. Most of his constructive and reform measures have been adopted. A State Prison Board to have charge of all penal institutions, the introduction of needed reforms in the management of the penitentiary, and a plan for giving employment to convicts to take the place of the old contract system. A State Tax Commission to equalize assessments; and a State Highway Board that has in view the placing of road construction on a scientific basis. Several of his recommendations fell by the way, but these may come later, while enough was accomplished to show his fine executive ability, watchful earnestness, force and determination.

Of course his Democratic partisans in a general way stood with him and helped in this work, especially in the popular branch of the Legislature. Without their loyalty he could not have succeeded as he did. Among the most effective of these was Representative Frank H. Farris, Democratic floor leader of the House. His natural skill as a leader, his untiring energy, legislative experience and practical knowledge of parliamentary usages, made him an invaluable asset to the Governor, and his influence in accomplishing results is acknowledged and given credit by every member of the Legislature. It also follows that there was back of him a strong, intelligent membership, earnest in its desire to do the very best possible for the State.

Governor Gardner has reason to congratulate himself on the successful fulfillment of his promises so far, and the people of the State have reason to congratulate themselves on electing such a Governor. His work and evident honesty of purpose are an earnest that before his term of office has expired he will have placed the State on the safe financial and business basis which he has promised and which is his expressed ambition and purpose.

The revolution in Russia last week, the quick and successful overthrow of the Czar's absolute rule and his abdication of the throne, and the establishment of a provisional government looking towards the rule of the people, is strong evidence that the spirit of democracy is marching on in the old world. That the people of Germany and Prussia are also very restless under Prussian militarism finds earnest expression frequently among the Socialist members of the German Reichstag and the Prussian diet. It begins to look as if the war may not leave the Kaiser's hold on the throne as secure as it has been.

The Wayne County Journal asks the following question: "Having furnished the Congressman for this district for six consecutive terms, isn't it about time for St. Francois county to retire for a spell, before trotting out any new material?" Perhaps so, if it were a mere matter of passing the position around among the counties of the district as a local favor. But the question of furnishing a Representative in Congress is one of suitable men more than locality, the choice of the political parties in making their nominations and then the choice of the people at the polls. The field is an open one, and any county in the district has the privilege of placing a favorite son in the field for the nomination of either party. The people are the judges as to which they believe would be the best man to represent the district. The Times would as cheerfully support any man from some other county, whom the Democrats might nominate, as it would one from St. Francois county.

DIVORCING POLITICS

Postmaster General Burleson appears to be going it a little strong in his efforts to introduce new methods in the Post office Department, and to run it as if the people, who are popularly supposed to govern in this country, had nothing to say as to how the public business shall be conducted. Last week he made another of his orders providing a modified civil service for first, second and third class postmasters after April 1st, in pursuance of his desire "to divorce completely the postal service from politics." Speaker Clark, commenting on one of Mr. Burleson's former orders placing fourth class postmasters in the civil service list, said: "To my mind that raised more Cain in politics than anything else, and it is one of the main reasons the next House is so close. People in a Democratic district want a Democrat in office as Postmaster."

Mr. Clark is right. Why divorce the postal service from politics more than any other public service? Politics is the life and foundation of our republican institutions, and every good citizen who loves these institutions and wishes to maintain them in politics and keeps himself as thoroughly informed on the political trend as possible. To divorce any department of government from politics is to divorce it from the people and to build up a select class from whom alone selections may be made to fill its positions. It is contrary to the spirit of our democratic form of government. Civil service rules and regulation to a limited extent may be well enough in certain lines of public employment where deftness and expertness are particularly necessary, but carried to extremes they are pernicious and demoralizing to republican institutions. Eliminate politics and you destroy the interest and concern of the people in all public affairs and in the election of their chief officers, for the hope of recognition and reward is the mainspring of human action in public as well as private undertakings.

In a republic such as ours, where government is based on the consent of the governed, there are of necessity differences of opinion or policies, and these differences naturally express themselves in and through political parties. To carry out the policies and strengthen its position, the party in power appoints agents of its own party to the positions within its appointive authority, and the party that tries to hold its place by maintaining a select class of no known or definite political convictions from which to make its appointments, the duties of which may be mastered in a short time by any one sufficiently intelligent to hold a public office, makes a sure way for its defeat.

If this alleged civil service innovation is such a wonderfully good thing to promote public efficiency, why not run the whole gamut, institute a college of high-brow experts and require every citizen who wants to run for office pass an examination as to his qualifications before he can become a candidate? Absurd? To be sure it is, but neither is it in harmony with our institutions to foster a select and favored class for official preferment.

Perhaps one of the most reasonable criticisms, from a Democratic viewpoint, that might be made of President Wilson is, that he has surrounded himself in his Cabinet and heads of departments with several men who are not as soundly imbued with the spirit and policies of the party that elected him as they might be. They want to run things along their own self-approved theoretical lines without regard to the sentiment and feeling of the rank and file of the party. It is calculated to demoralize and disintegrate any party. Former President Taft recognized the advantage of keeping his own political partisans in government positions, and so, just before retiring, he placed a whole army of his appointees on the civil service list, that they might be retained and to embarrass his Democratic successor. President Wilson would have done well to have promptly rescinded Mr. Taft's order, but instead we have his Postmaster General extending the overworked civil service theorem.

The rush of foreign residents to become naturalized emphasizes the "Here's your hat, what's your hurry" saying.

Among the bills reported to have been passed by the Legislature is one providing for an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for St. Francois county.

When Germany begins to wantonly sink American ships, clearly marked and defined as such, on their homeward voyage from foreign ports—an evidence that they were not carrying war contrabands or supplies to her enemies—it looks very much like a declaration of war on her part against the United States. Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad.

Proclamation Convening Congress on April 2

WASHINGTON, March 21.

Following is President Wilson's proclamation calling the Congress into extra session April 2 to receive a communication concerning "grave questions of national policy."

"Whereas, public interests require that the Congress of the United States should be convened in extra session at 12 o'clock noon, on the second day of April, 1917, to receive a communication by the executive on grave questions of national policy, which should be taken immediately under consideration.

"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and declare that an extraordinary occasion requires the Congress of the United States to convene in extra session at the Capitol in the City of Washington on the second of April, 1917, at 12 o'clock noon, of which all persons who shall be entitled to act as members thereof are hereby required to take notice.

"Given under my hand and the seal of the United States of America, the 21st day of March, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States the 41st."

HOW TO GET FREE TEXT-BOOKS

This discussion will take the place of the County School Notes for this week, as the County Superintendent feels that an understanding of the free text-book law is of vital importance to the people at this time.

No sane group of people in the State would fail to vote free text-books if they only understood the law. Therefore, every person should take this opportunity of becoming informed. It is absolutely and utterly wrong for a man to vote for or against a proposition when he does not understand it.

In order to get free text-books the school board must submit to the voters the question, "Shall free text-books be supplied to the pupils in School District No. —?" This question may be submitted at any annual meeting, or at a special meeting, fifteen days' notice having been given in the usual way by the board.

If a majority of the voters at the election vote for free text-books, the school board must purchase the text-books necessary to supply the first four grades, said books to be paid for from the incidental fund of the district, this amount to be replaced by the Insurance Tax money when it is received from the State Treasurer.

When the Secretary or Clerk of the school board certifies to the County Court that they have furnished the first four grades with text-books for the free use of the children, the County Court must apportion to that district its pro rata of the Insurance Tax money when same is received from the State Treasurer.

If, within three years from the time free text-books are voted, the school board certifies to the County Court that all of the eight grades have been supplied with free text-books, the County Court must continue to make the annual apportionment of the Insurance Tax money to that District. When school districts do not provide free text-books for pupils, the money which would have been apportioned to that district reverts to the incidental fund of the county.

By the adoption of free text-books the parents of every child attending school will be relieved of the expense and time required to secure books, and the poor child as well as the child with means, will have every school book every day in the year without expense to anyone in the district.

More than one-half of the school children of Missouri are today using free text-books, and over one-third of the districts have already taken advantage of the text-book law. The old saying, "You cannot get something for nothing" is not true in this case, as districts actually are getting their text-books for nothing.

Will you take advantage of this opportunity or do you prefer to buy your own books and force your friends and neighbors to do the same? Even if you adopt free text-books you still have the privilege of buying your own books if for any reason you prefer to do so. But the question is "Have you a right to deliberately deny your neighbor, who perhaps is 'hard run' to support a large family, the opportunity to secure books for his children, free of charge?"

CO. SUPT. OF SCHOOLS.

BUSINESS COLLEGE NOTES

C. E. Tullock visited home folks in Bismarck Saturday and Sunday.

J. A. Womack has accepted a position with Morris Packing Co., of east St. Louis.

Frankie Hamilton has received her credentials showing her to be the junior member of the Order of Artistic Typists. As this is the first member from this vicinity to belong to this exclusive typewriting order whose headquarters are in New York City, it is quite an honor.

The blindfold typewriting contest is getting to be a regular feature. All students participating are securely blindfolded and the work they are able to do is very surprising to those who are not familiar with such demonstrations.

Final tests were given in commercial arithmetic, English and letter writing last week.

Misses Mabel and Maude Mills visited home folks the latter part of last week.

The Legislature has passed a bill making women eligible to election as members of School Boards. As there is no emergency clause, it will not go into effect for ninety days, else we might have some women candidates for directors at our school election April 3rd. It would be a good idea to have some of our enterprising women on the Farmington school board.

Mode Coffman, the new Superintendent of the County Infirmary, took charge of that institution Monday.

SUGAR GROVE AND ROUTE 2

There has been much sickness here during the past week. Everyone is better at this writing.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde London returned to this neighborhood last Sunday, after spending several months in Laporte, Ind.

Mrs. D. C. Casteel and children of Flat River spent several days of last week here with friends and relatives.

Miss Edith Weiss and her grandmother, Mrs. John Short, spent a few days the last of last week with Miss Weiss' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Weiss, of Doe Run.

Marion Haynes made a business call at Joe Byington's one day recently.

Miss Anna Niedert most delightfully entertained a number of friends at the home of her father here last Saturday evening.

Perry Pinkston of Herculaneum spent a few days of this week with home folks here.

Mrs. R. C. Martin celebrated her 62d birthday anniversary last Sunday, March 18. A number of friends and her children, two daughters, spent the day with her. Mrs. Martin said that she and Mr. Martin, who is 82, have been enjoying the best of health the past winter. Those present were her daughters, Mrs. John Haynes and little daughters, Mary and Lucy, and Mrs. D. C. Casteel and children of Flat River; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Johnson of Farmington, Mr. and Mrs. T. F. O'Bannon, Misses Minnie Lee Johnson and Blanche and Helen Haynes, and Kossuth Haynes. On Monday a number of the neighbor ladies surprised Mrs. Martin by dropping in and spending the day with her.

Miss Nellie Byington returned to this neighborhood last Sunday.

J. M. Doss of Farmington made a business call in this locality last Sunday.

A number of the friends and neighbors of Mrs. Dave Hartshorn called at her home last Tuesday.

Dan Haynes made a business trip to the Lead Belt last Monday.

Kenneth Hunt of Tacoma, Washington, is visiting friends and relatives in this county. He and his mother spent the day with his uncle, L. T. Hunt, of this neighborhood, Tuesday. He also called on Thos. Horton Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. London, Misses Anna Niedert, Edna London, Nellie Byington and Blanche and Helen Haynes; Messrs. Eugene and Clarence Williams, Dewey Zolman, Herman Niedert, Carl and Emmett London and Dan and Marion Haynes spent Sunday evening at T. F. O'Bannon's.

Miss Anna Niedert visited Miss Fannie Williams Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Henry Niedert and Mrs. E. G. Williams and daughter, Miss Fannie, called to see Stanley Haynes Monday. Mr. Haynes is recovering from an attack of pneumonia. Although he has been at home for several weeks, he is not able to be out.

Three of the six present mail carriers out from Farmington are from Sugar Grove—E. G. Williams, on Route 4; John Haynes, on route one, and Geo. Humphrey, on route five.

The Magazine Section of last week's Times was highly appreciated by everyone of Sugar Grove. The Times always seems complete, but the magazine was a glad surprise. We hope to see it again next month.

ROUTE 4

Mrs. Jane Gardner and Mrs. Wm. Gardner of Bonne Terre and Mrs. H. S. Knauss of Farmington spent Monday the guests of Mrs. Luther Black.

Mrs. Julia Perrie visited her sister, Mrs. Henry Knauss, in Farmington last Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. A. S. Krekel visited her daughter, Mrs. Robert Boswell, in Farmington last week.

Mrs. Ed Young and Mrs. Henry Knauss were Farmington shoppers last Thursday.

ROUTE 5

Miss Minnie Laws, Mrs. Nellie Harter and little daughter, Reva, visited in Bonne Terre last week.

Irvin Laws, who has been visiting home folks, has returned to his home in Tulsa, Okla.

Miss Melvinn Perkins and Hazel Resinger spent Sunday with Mrs. A. F. Bryson of Sprott.

Carrier R. M. Barton is back on duty, after a five-days' vacation.

Miss Kathryn Barton of Esther and Miss Ethel Barton of Route 2 spent Saturday and Sunday with their parents and grand parents on this route.

Rev. John Boyer of Leadwood tendered his resignation as pastor of the church at Sprott. The resignation was accepted.

Many thanks to Mrs. J. H. Ball for the fried apple pie Wednesday.—The Carrier.

Charley Hopkins is on the job again with his drag. Mr. Hopkins is a believer in good roads and is always willing to do more than his part in such work.

Davis brothers just finished a fine new barn this week. The Messrs. Davis are progressive farmers of this route.

MANURE PILE HARBORS FLIES

The preferred food of house-fly larvae is horse manure, in which they breed in untold numbers. More than one thousand house flies will issue from one pound of manure. Flies are sure to swarm from unprotected piles.

Early spring is the time to begin operations against the fly and one of the first steps is to properly dispose of the manure piles that have accumulated during winter. In small towns and rural districts it is quite easy to dispose of such piles. In large cities the problem is more difficult.

Since horse manure is a valuable fertilizer it may be disposed of to advantage on the garden, lawn or field. Application should be made without delay. In this way the breeding place of flies can be eliminated and crops can be benefited. A. H. Hollinger of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture recommends that a fly-tight bin or pit be used for the temporary disposal of manure. Manure should not accumulate even in such containers. It should be removed and scattered on the field at least every two days, so that the larvae, if present, will not have time to mature.

In case manure piles do accumulate through neglect, there are still two methods to follow which will prove effective. The first is the treatment of manure piles with certain chemicals, either dry or in water. The second way is by the use of maggot traps, the efficiency of which is based upon the strong tendency of the larvae to migrate after maturity and before pupation.

Powdered Hellebore is a very effective larvicide, and is especially recommended to be used at the rate of about one pound to twenty gallons of water. This amount should be applied to about fifteen bushels of manure, the approximate amount obtained from one horse per week. No injurious action on the fertilizing value of the manure follows such application, for the hellebore, being an organic product, will slowly decompose. Consequently it will not produce a cumulative injurious effect upon plant growth such as certain inorganic products might. The cost of such treatment will average about ten cents a week for each horse.

Borax applied to manure at the rate of one and one-quarter pounds for each fifteen bushels of horse manure will also prove effective, and costs about seven cents per week per horse. This manure when applied to the land at the rate of about 15 tons per acre will not injure plant development. However, borax being an inorganic compound, decomposition of this chemical does not result, and the cumulative effect of this substance upon the plant growth may become injurious if amounts of borax in excess of that recommended above are used. Hellebore should be used instead of borax for treating all manure intended for fertilizing purposes.

Instead of treating manure chemically, it is possible by means of a simple arrangement called a "maggot trap" to destroy at least 99 per cent of all maggots in any manure pile. These traps may be made of almost any size and to suit almost any conditions. They will meet the problems of both rural and urban surroundings. In general, maggot traps are so built that the larvae will migrate and drop through openings in the bottom of the manure pile into water neath. This is a very practical method and will be discussed more thoroughly at a later date.

SOME GARDEN SEEDS

CARRY DISEASE

Several wilts and blights which attack ordinary vegetables are carried from year to year on the seed. The most common of these are celery blight and some of the cabbage rots.

The best preventive in either case, according to C. G. Carpenter of the Missouri College of Agriculture, is a development of resistant varieties and also a disinfection of the seed to prevent carrying the disease to new ground. Mr. Carpenter calls attention to recommendations from the University of Wisconsin for disinfecting cabbage seed by soaking them 20 minutes in a solution of one ounce of 40 per cent formaldehyde in 20 gallons of water. After this treatment they should be thoroughly washed and spread out to dry.

Celery seed may be disinfected by the use of a solution of one part corrosive sublimate in 1000 parts water. The seed should be soaked one-half hour and otherwise treated the same as the cabbage.

One point to be remembered is that the treatment of seed does not eliminate the disease from infected soil, manure or from machinery which has been used in tillage.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Administratrix of the Estate of Hugh McGregor (deceased) will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash in hand the following described personal property:

- 1 brown Mare 15 years old.
- 1 brown Mare 5 years old.
- 1 black Colt, coach, 1 year old.
- 1 Mule 3 years old.
- 3 Mules 2 years old.
- 1 Jersey Cow.
- 1 Saddle.
- 1 Training Cart.
- 1 set Double Harness.
- 1 Lady's Saddle.
- 1 Sewing Machine.

At McGregor's farm, 3 miles east of Potosi, Mo., on Iron Mountain railroad, on Saturday, the 21st day of March, 1917. Sale to begin promptly at 10 o'clock a. m.

ROBERTA L. MCGREGOR, Adm'x.

McH. 23, 30.

Everything—every week—\$1